



MEMORANDUM

TO: Marc Orlando, Town Manager
FROM: Erin Schumacher, AICP, Senior Planner
RE: Squire Pope Property
DATE: 12/12/2016
CC: Heather Colin, Director of Growth Management; and
Kevin Icard, Planning & Community Development Manager

Squire Pope Carriage House (Bluffton, SC)

- Built around 1850.
- Two-story frame dwelling was originally an outbuilding to a larger house that burned during the Civil War. The kitchen building has been joined to the main house and there is a historic addition to the west end; the east end of the second floor has been enclosed.ⁱ
- Pope was a wealthy landowner from Hilton Head Island (owner of Coggins Point Plantation). He served in the South Carolina Senate and represented St. Luke's Parish in the SC House of Representatives. The main house was burned the day of the firing of Bluffton [4 June 1863]. When the family returned following the Civil War, they joined these buildings together to serve as their home. The structure is one room deep with porches across the river façade.ⁱⁱ
- There is no record left to tell us what the home looked like, but it was undoubtedly [sic] large and handsome as the "Squire" was wealthy and had a large family.
- Following the war when Mrs. Pope and her daughter returned to Bluffton, virtually destitute, they had the carriage house and a smaller building nearby, that had not been destroyed by fire, (both circa 1850), joined together to form the present structure which is where they lived.ⁱⁱⁱ



Coggins Point Plantation (Hilton Head, Island)^{iv}

General Information -

- Location - northeastern corner of the Island.
- Other names - Colginse Point, possibly for a promontory in Virginia where the Pope family earlier resided.



Owners -

Hack, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, before 1861

- Edmund Ellis and Samuel Green, jointly given an original Royal grant dated 7 May 1762 (SC Archives Royal Land Grants, vol. X, p. 220).
- Edmund Ellis took Fish Haul as his portion (see also), and sold it to Samuel Green in April 1763.
- Sarah and Susannah Green inherited from their father in his will of 24 February 1767.
- **William Pope, Sr.**, second husband of Sarah, received Coggins Point through the marriage.
- Pope family made this their principal seat until confiscation. Mansion built by **Squire William Pope, Jr.**, in 1806.
- Federal Government took possession Dec.1, 1863. Declared a military reservation (Fort Walker) on Oct 27, 1874.
- Sold by Secretary of War in 1927 for \$12,600 possibly to carpetbagger Weiss.
- Landon K. Thorne and Alfred L. Loomis, 1931.

Land - 800 acres, 321 of which were Fish Haul.

Maps - Hack, "Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, before 1861"

Bibliography -

Holmgren, *Research on Hilton Head Island, 1956-ca. 1975*

Holmgren, *Hilton Head, A Sea Island Chronicle*

Peeples, *An Index to Hilton Head Island Names*

Porcher, *The Story of Sea Island Cotton*

Additional Information

Coggins Point was the plantation seat of **Squire William Pope** (1788-1862). On the northeast corner of the island **Squire Pope built a two-story frame residence on a high brick foundation in 1806**, when he married Ann Scott of neighboring Grass Lawn Plantation. In **1816 Pope married his cousin, Sarah Lavinia Pope**. The plantation contained 806 acres. Pope served in the South Carolina House of Representatives (1810-1814, 1816-1818, 1850-1852) and in the South Carolina Senate from 1822-1832. In addition to Coggins Point Plantation Pope owned Skull Creek and Point Comfort Plantations on Hilton Head and Cresant Plantation near Bluffton. When Thomas Barksdale died in 1832, court action on the part of relatives necessitated the sale of Skull Creek Plantation. Pope bought 1,000 acres along Skull Creek, including Barksdale's home, renaming the property Cotton Hope. It became his island seat. The 1860 agricultural census listed Squire Pope as owning 200 slaves in St. Luke's Parish. The Coggins Point house was used as headquarters of the Department of the South during the Civil War. By 1864 a signal tower had been built atop the hip-roofed structure and the spacious double verandahs enclosed to provide more room. The signal tower was placed on the roof by Lt. Keenan. (Photos in Carse, Holmgren and Museum collection) Both Fort Walker and Fort Sherman are located on Coggins Point Plantation.

South Carolina Institute of A & A original listing

"The **first Popes on Hilton Head were probably William and Sarah**. In 1791 they sold 365 acres of their Coggins Point land to the Scotts keeping the 803 acres that would remain in the Pope family until confiscation."

Holmgren, Virginia C., *Hilton Head, A Sea Island Chronicle*, p. 130

"Fred C. Hack, president of The Hilton Head Company, has offered to deed the site of the Coggins Point plantation, home of Squire William Pope (1788-1862), adjacent to the site of Fort Walker, to the Hilton Head Historical Society on condition that the house be restored for use as a museum."

The Island Packet, January 27, 1972

"The word (of Pope's house) comes in the diaries of young soldiers, one of whom wrote, 'When our men landed on Hilton Head, the Negroes guided them to the Rebel officer's headquarters, which was on the Pope Plantation. Here they found a very fine library. There were besides the books, complete files of old papers, some dating as far as 1812. Hard wasn't it, to have all these things destroyed?' This was written by General Saxon's quartermaster who would set up headquarters there. Another recorded 'abandoned in such haste that the horses in the stable were left behind and General Drayton's own charger, a fine handsome bay horse...was captured here and became the favorite horse of General Stevens.

Islander Magazine, December 1977; Nancy Cathcart

No one came to redeem the Pope house (after the war). It is said the house was eventually dismantled and sold in Beaufort for scrap lumber. Coggins Point was held as a military reservation until 1927 when it was sold by the Secretary of War. Like a mirage, the Squire's house is once again rising at Fort Walker beside the banks of Fish Haul Creek. Talented Wayne and Ceil Edwards....are today rebuilding an exact replica of Squire William Pope's Plantation house, now within the borders of Port Royal Plantation. They are building as close as possible to the former location."

c. 1920 "...families included Bryan, Wright, Barnwell, Bligen, Fuller, Jones, Small, Young, Ford, Joiner, Miller, Orage, Lawyer"

Grant, Moses, *Looking Back*, p.14

Called Colginse Point Plantation in the will of Samuel Green of 1767; left to Green's daughters Sarah and Susannah. Peeples claims **Sarah married William Pope, Sr.**

Peeples, Robert, *Tales of Ante Bellum Hilton Head Families*, p. 2

"...the Federal government had still kept possession of the 803 acres at Coggins Point where Fort Walker was located." During the Spanish American War, the fort was reactivated in 1898 and a new type of dynamite gun was installed. Abandoned in 1899 the land remained Federal property. In 1917 the barracks were reactivated and big guns were put in place along the shore. A submarine watch was kept until the end of World War II.

Holmgren, p. 119-120

The valuable 800-acre Coggins Point Plantation at the northeastern corner of the island was part of an original Royal Grant dated May 7, 1762 (SC Archives - Royal Grants Volume X, p. 220) jointly to Edmund Ellis and Samuel Green. Samuel Ellis took Fish Haul which he and his wife, Elizabeth, sold to Samuel Green (321 acres) in April 1763 who made it his place of residence. In his will of February 24, 1767 Samuel Green left Colginese Point Plantation to his daughters Sarah and Susannah. Sarah Green, named for her mother Sarah Norton Green, married Thomas Tucker and then **William Pope, Sr.** carrying to him her Coggins Point Plantation which became a principal seat of the Pope family until confiscation. Reporters of the Battle of Port Royal Sound in 1681 described "'a rich old plantation mansion", the home of **William Pope, Jr., the redoubtable 'Squire Pope'**, built in 1806 when he married Ann Scott of Grass Lawn Plantation. Colginese Point may have been named for a promontory in Virginia where the Pope family earlier resided.

Peeples, Robert E.H., *An Index to Hilton Head Island Names (Before the Contemporary Development)*, p. 8

Cotton Hope Plantation^v

General Information -

- Location – north of Fairfield Plantation along Scull Creek.
- When Island planter Thomas Henry Barksdale died childless in August

1832, leaving his widow, Martha Sarah Stoney Barksdale of the Otterburn Plantation family, as sole heiress, several of his relatives brought court action against the widow and won handsome cash settlements which necessitated the sale of Barksdale's 2600-acre Scull Creek Plantation.

Owners -

- **Squire William Pope** bought 1000 acres, including the handsome Scull Creek Plantation House, renaming it Cotton Hope Plantation and made it his Island seat; his son, **William John Pope** and his family being then installed at Coggins Point.
- William Seabrook apparently purchased the other 1600 acres.
- Leased by federal government during the Civil War.
- **Eliza Woodward**, a Pope heir, redeemed the property Jan 4, 1887.
- She sold her interest to John E. Woodward, another heir, March 8, 1889, who deeded the property to his wife Mary.
- Mary began to sell off the property in small lots to Hilton Head freemen. (See Hilton Head Land Owners, Some Nineteenth Century Owners)
- Heirs sold about 45 acres in small plots of Negroes and in larger plots to Roy Rainey.
- Thorne and Loomis, 1931

Land - 1000 acres

Maps - Hack, "Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, before 1861"

Bibliography -

Trinkley, *Archaeological Excavations at 38BU96, Portion of Cotton Hope Plantation*

Holmgren, *Research on Hilton Head Island, 1956-ca. 1975*

Holmgren, *Hilton Head, A Sea Island Chronicle*

Peeples, An Index to Hilton Head Island Names

Additional Information:

Built by Thomas Henry Barksdale, c. 1815, the two story clapboard house on a tabby foundation was approached by a double avenue of magnolia trees. Barksdale died childless in 1832, leaving his widow, Martha Sarah (Stoney) Barksdale, as the sole heiress. Several of his relatives instituted court action against the widow and won cash settlements which necessitated the sale of Barksdale's 2,600 acre Skull Creek Plantation. William Seabrook bought 1,600 acres and **William Pope, Jr. known as Squire Pope, bought the remaining 1,000** acres along Skull Creek, including the Barksdale's Skull Creek Plantation house. Squire Pope renamed the plantation Cotton Hope and made it his home.

South Carolina Institute of A & A original listing

Squire Pope's daughter, Mrs. Alsop Park Woodward, regained ownership of the plantation in 1874. In the nine years following the Civil War, the Reverend Thomas Howard conducted the first black school on Hilton Head in the best front parlor of Cotton Hope house. (This fact is disputed by Holmgren (p.99) stating "Apparently one Negro school had been already opened on the island in January by Mr. Barnard K. Lee, who came in advance of the sponsored group.")

Stephen Weld, aide to General Wright, went on a foraging mission and "At Pope's Cotton Hope Plantation, which he thought the nicest on the island, it was the same story," plundered by the negroes and the soldiers, leaving "only a piece of a clock as a memento".

Holmgren, Virginia C., *Hilton Head, A Sea Island Chronicle*, p. 95

"Cotton Hope, sometimes called Skull Creek Plantation, also belonged to the Honorable William Pope and boasted a fine house whose tabby wall foundations still stand not far from the road to Seabrook Landing." (This was

in 1959)

"Lawyers acting for **John E. Woodward, Eliza's son and heir, redeemed Cotton Hope in 1887. (John was William's grandson)** The heirs sold Cotton Hope in small plots to Negroes and in larger plots to Roy Rainey. ..and eventually went to Thorne and Loomis."

Holmgren, p. 131

The tabby foundation noted by Holmgren is now known to have been an out building not the main house. The standing tabby structure is of probable industrial or storage use. It is in good condition and of high integrity. Its architectural features are unique on the island and very rare in the region. This is recommended for the National Register at the level of state significance. The estate of **William Pope** made a claim for a 'plantation' of 201 slaves and crops, buildings, furniture, animals, wagons, boats, etc. of about \$30,000. Cotton Hope's main house furnishings were valued at \$1,000 and the library contents at \$2,000. In 1877 Cotton Hope is listed as having 1250 acres - 400 cultivated, 150 cleared but not cultivated and 700 of woodlands. The site of the 19th century slave row is of undeveloped, large domestic scatter. Being one of the better preserved slave sites it is recommended for the National Register of Historic Places.

Chicora Research Series 13, *Archaeological Testing of Six Sites on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina*, p. 29, 70

also *Archaeological Survey of Parcel 9, Hilton Head Plantation, Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina*

An 1862 plat shows in detail the layout of the plantation. From about 1861 to 1874 the property was leased, both to overseers and eventually to tenants, for cotton farming. Shortly after the property was redeemed by Pope heirs, the plantation was subdivided and sold to freedmen. A portion of Cotton Hope was maintained intact and eventually became part of Hilton Head Plantation. The remainder of the land is still divided into small parcels

owned by primarily the island's Black residents.

The tabby ruins of a building connected to Cotton Hope Plantation can be seen to the right of Squire Pope Road just before Gum Tree Road.

Islander Magazine, January 1972

When island planter Thomas Henry Barksdale died childless in 1832, leaving his widow, Martha Sarah Stoney Barksdale of the Otterburn Plantation family, as sole heiress, several of his relatives brought court action against the widow and won handsome cash settlements which necessitated the sale of Barksdale's 2600 acre Skull Creek Plantation. **Squire Pope bought 1000 acres** lying north of Fairfield Plantation along Skull Creek, including the handsome Skull Creek Plantation house with its double avenue of Magnolia Grandiflora marching down to the creek landing. Squire Pope not only renamed it Cotton Hope Plantation but made it his island seat, **his son, William John Pope** and his family being then installed at Coggins Point. Skull Creek Plantation house was built by Thomas Henry Barksdale shortly after August 1813 when the British landed in force and burned most of the island's residences. It stood two stories above a tabby foundation basement floor, the ruins of which are extant.

Peeples, Robert E.H., *An Index to Hilton Head Island Names (Before the Contemporary Development)*, p. 9

ⁱ Mary W. Edwards. National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form: Bluffton Historic District. 21 June 1996. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Columbia, SC.

ⁱⁱ Bluffton Historical Preservation Society. *A Guide to Historic Bluffton*. (Bluffton, SC: 2007) 24.

ⁱⁱⁱ Bluffton Historical Preservation Society. *No. II. A Longer Short History of Bluffton, South Carolina and Its Environs*. (Hilton Head, SC: 1988) 18.

^{iv} "Coggins Point Plantation," Heritage Library <http://www.heritagelib.org/articles/coggins-point-plantation>, (November 16, 2015).

^v "Cotton Hope Plantation," Heritage Library <http://www.heritagelib.org/articles/cotton-hope-plantation>, (November 16, 2015).